The Picturization of Segregation based on Gender Differentiation in the Select Novels of Nayantara Sehgal and Anita Desai: A Thematic Study

A Synopsis Submitted to

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

For the Registration of the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy in English

Under the faculty of Arts

by

Sheetal Devidasrao Hambarde

Under the Supervision of

Dr. Shailaja B. Wadikar

Professor of English and
Director, SLLCS, SRTM University, Nanded

Research Centre: School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, SRTM University, Nanded

March 2022

Introduction

The gender study is one such area of study within social science that proves the fact that disciplinary boundaries are arbitrary and artificial. It has been created for convenience of study and not as an obstacle in the path of research. Thus, for a successful and complete study of gendered relations within society, the integrated approach has been adopted by merging together three fields of analysis: gender, history and literature.

Traditionally, the bulk of mainstream academic history has generally neglected gender and culture, (here specifically the literary form of culture). Moreover, history, gender and literature are regarded as distinct fields of analysis, considered in isolation from each other. The links between them have recently begun to be perceived in academic history circles. In the past few decades, attempts have been made to establish or rather perceive such links. In such a situation, there is an obvious need formore work in the subject at the level of generalization and theory as well as for careful scrutiny by specific case studies.

Review of Literature:

The select theme is significant in the Indian English literature and few scholars and critics attempted to explore gender inequality i.e., the book entitled *Nayantara Shagal s Storm in Chandigarh Bharati Mukherjee s Jasmine Shashi Deshpande's that Long Silence and Arundhati Roys the God of Small Things* by Singh, Tanuja University of Allahabad, and *Women s voices and their roles in the works of Nayantara Sahgal* by Veenarani, C Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. Some of the novels are explored in Ph.D. thesis *The portrayal of feminism in the select novels of Nayantara Sahgal* by Shameem, M Periyar University.

A number of critical materials, including the articles, the reviews, critical books, Ph.D. thesis are available on these novels but in present research researcher is going to throw light on the select works through the perceptive of gender inequality.

Objectives.

The present study aims to find out inequalities between the genders, irrespective of their relations. The Indian culture, education, languages and politics also equally contribute to the gender discrimination. The present research study is carried out keeping in view the following objectives.

- To study in detail Nayantara Sahgal as a feminist and the leading writer in the area of women writing.
- To study Anita Desai as a main exponent of women writing.
- To identify the types of gender discrimination.
- To attempt to comparative study of the works of Nayantara Sehgal and Anita Desai.

Hypothesis:

The present study is based on the following hypothesis

- Both, Nayantara Sahgal and Anita Desai treat the problem of gender discrimination or inequality differently.
- The bringing up of both these writers is different in terms of their periods, education, background and parentage.
- Being the women writers, both of them sympathize with the female characters in their novels.
- There are many similarities between the styles of their treatment of the problem of gender discrimination.

Scope and Limitations of the Study:

The present study limits itself to the select novels of Anita Desai andNayantara Sahgal, and not all their writings. Their nonfiction writings have deliberately been excluded from the study. Moreover, their writings have many subjects-such as human relationships, politics, feminine issues, education etc. There have been enough references of their different critiques and writings cited in the present research, but only for the cross references.

The present study depends on the texts written by the writers under study, and the reference books written on them. Apart from the reference books, various magazines and websites have also been referred to for collecting the data and dereferences

Research Methodology:

The methodology to be adopted for the present research is descriptive, interpretative, analytical and critical with help of various printed and electronic,primary and secondary sources. The data will be critically analyzed and evaluated in order to present Nayantara Sehgal's and Anita Desai's work

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

This research tentatively proposes to follow the chapter scheme given below:

Chapter One: Introduction

Chapter one deals with the initial Introduction of the topic, its purpose, scheme and program of the study. It also focuses on the background of the basic problem of gender discrimination in the Indian scenario.

Chapter Two: Characterization of Woman in the Novels of Anita Desai

Chapter Two chapter deals with the four select novels of Anita Desai - *Where Shall We Go This Summer*, *Clear Light of Day*, *In Custody and Fasting Feasting*, from the point of view of gender discrimination causing various problems to women characters in them.

Chapter Three: Characterization of Woman in the Novels of Nayantara Sehgal

Chapter Three will study the texts by Nayantara Sahgal's *They are- Storm in Chandigarh-1969, The Day in Shadow-1971, Rich Like Us -1985, and A Situation in New Delhi-1989.* It gives a comprehensive assessment of the problems, especially of women and forms the basis of the conclusions arrived at the end of the thesis.

Chapter Four: Relationship between Women and Men Reflected in the Novels of Anita Desai and Nayantara Sehgal.

In Chapter Four will attempt a study of Sehgal and Desai with a focus on the complex interaction between the contending demands of nationalist ideals and feminist aspirations. Sahgal's quest for cultural synthesis places her firmly as a forerunner in the field of Indo-Anglican fiction.

Chapter Five: Conclusion

The last chapter will be in the form of conclusion where the necessary findings will be given.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Anita Desai

• Desai, Anita. *In Clear Light of Day*. Penguin India, 1980.

• ---. *In Custody*. Penguin India, 1984.

• ---. *Fasting, Feasting*. Penguin India, 1999.

• ---. *Where Shall We Go This Summer-1975*. Orient Paperbacks, 2005.

Nayantara Sahgal

• Sahgal, Nayantara. *Storm In Chandigarh*. Penguin India, 1969.

• ---. *The Day In Shadow*. Penguin India, 1971.

• ---. *Rich Like Us*. Penguin India,1985.

• ---. *A Situation In New Delhi*. 1989.

Secondary Sources:

- Abrams, M. H., and Geoffery Harpham. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Cengage Learning Private Ltd., 2009.
- Bala, Suman and Pabby, D.K. *The Fiction Of Anita Desai Explorations in Modern Indo-English Fiction*. Bahri Publications, 1982.
- Baldwin, and Singh Shaun, *What the Body Remembers*. New Delhi: Harper Collins Publishers India, 1999.
- Bande, Usha, *The Novels of Anita Desai: A Short Study in Character and Conflict*. Prestige Books, 1988.
- Bandyopadhyay. *Political and Passion*: A Technological Perspective in A Situation in New Delhi, Indian Women Novelists.
- Beauvior de Simone. *The Second Sex*. (trans and edited by H.M.Parshely). Vintage, 1974.
- Belliappa, Meena. *Anita Desai: A Study of Her Fiction*. Calcutta: Writers Workshop, 1971.

- Iyengar, K. R. S. *Indian Writing in English*. Sterling, 1989.
- Singh, Sushila. *Feminism Theory, Criticism, Analysis*. Pen Craft International, 11977.
- Roy, Anuradha. *Patterns of Feminist Consciousness in Indian Women Writers*. Prestige, 1999.
- Naik, M. K. *Twentieth Century Indian English Fiction.* Pencraft, 2004.
- Agrawal, B. R. and Singh M. P., eds. *Major Trends in the Post-Independence Indian English Fiction.* Atlantic Publishers and Distributers, 2003.
- Berry, Peter. *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. Viva Books, 2008.
- Das, Bijay Kumar. ed. *Post Modern Indian English Literature*. Atlantic Publisher and Distributors, 2006.
- Bhatnagar, Manmohan K. ed. *Feminist English Literature*. Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, 1999.
- Krishna Swamy, Shanta. *The Women in Indian Fiction in English*. Asia Publishing House, 1982.
- Mishra, Binod, and Sanjay Kumar. eds. *Indian Writing in English*. Atlantic publishers, 2006.
- Millett, Kate.
- Ratnam, A. S., ed. *Critical Essays on Indian Women Writing in English*. Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, 1999.
- Ray, Mohit K. and Rama Kundu, eds. *Studies in Women Writers in English*. Vol. IV. Atlantic Publishers and Distributors, 2006.
- Singh, Anita. *Indian English Novel in the Nineties and After: A Study of the Texts and Its Contest*. Adhyayan Publishers, 2004.
- Sheshadri, Vijayalakshami. ed. *The New Women in India—English Women Writers since the 1970s.* B. R. Publishing Corporation, 1995.

Webliography:

1. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nayantara-Sahgal
2. https://www.loc.gov/acq/ovop/delhi/salrp/nayantarasahgal.html
3. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/nayantara-sahgal
4. https://www.amazon.in/Books-Nayantara-Sahgal/s?rh=n%3A976389031%2Cp_27%3ANayantara+Sahgal
5. https://www.ndbooks.com/author/nayantara-sahgal/
6. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anita_Desai
7. https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/anita-desai
8. https://www.hindustantimes.com/ht-school/anita-desai-author-whose-word-imagery-evokes-characters-moods-101614861247000.html
9. https://www.gradesaver.com/author/anita-desai
10. https://www.amarchitrakatha.com/literature_details/profile-anita-desai/
11. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Anita-Desai

Research Supervisor

Dr. Shailaja B Wadikar

Professor of English and
Director, SLLCS, SRTM University, Nanded

Researcher

Sheetal D Hambarde

Place: Nanded.
Date: March 22, 2022